

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
IN REGULAR SESSION
January 8, 2013**

A regular session of the Winchester Common Council was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 in the Council Chambers, Rouss City Hall. President Jeff Buettner called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT: President Jeff Buettner; Councilor Evan Clark, John Tagnesi, Les Veach and Ben Weber; Vice-Mayor Milt McInturff; Mayor Elizabeth Minor; Vice-President John Willingham (8)
ABSENT: Councilor John Hill (1)

MOMENT OF SILENCE – President Buettner led the citizens and councilors in a Moment of Silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Minor led the citizens and councilors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION to Appoint City Manager Dale Iman as President Pro Tempore per Winchester City Code Section 2-29

Councilor Tagnesi moved to appoint Mr. Iman as President Pro Tempore. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then approved 8/0.*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION - PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mr. Iman accepted nominations for President of Council.

Councilor Buettner nominated Vice-President Willingham.

After receiving no further nominations, Mr. Iman closed the nominations and the nomination of Vice-President Willingham was approved 8/0 effective February 1, 2013.

- CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION – VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Councilor Hill arrived at the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Iman accepted nominations for Vice- President of Council.

Vice-President Willingham nominated Vice-Mayor Milt McInturff.

After receiving no further nominations, Mr. Iman closed the nominations and the nomination of Vice-Mayor McInturff was approved 9/0 effective February 1, 2013.

- **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION – VICE MAYOR**

Mr. Iman accepted nominations for Vice-Mayor.

Vice-Mayor McInturff nominated Councilor Veach.

After receiving no further nominations, Mr. Iman closed the nominations and the nomination of Councilor Veach was approved 9/0 effective February 1, 2013.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 18, 2012 Work Session, September 25, 2012 Work Session, November 20, 2012 Work Session, November 27, 2012 Work Session, December 11, 2012 Regular Session, and December 18, 2012 Work Session

Vice-President Willingham moved to approve the minutes as presented. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Vice-President Willingham moved to add a motion to alter the design of the Historic Old Town Pedestrian Mall Improvement Project to the agenda. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

R-2013-01: Resolution – Honoring the retirement of Major David White

R-2013-02: Resolution – Honoring the retirement of Master Police Officer Homer Andrews

R-2013-03: Resolution – Honoring the retirement of Linda Pommier

Mayor Minor presented Homer Andrews with the resolution honoring his service with the city.

Mayor Minor presented the resolution honoring Linda Pommier to Treasurer Mark Garber in Ms. Pommier's absence.

Councilor Clark moved to approve R-2013-01, R-2013-02, and R-2013-03. *The motion was seconded by Vice-President Willingham then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Mayor Minor presented the 2012 Annual Report (attached to the minutes)

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Dale Iman introduced Amber Johnson as the Director of the Department of Social Services.

CU-11-62: Conditional Use Permit – Request to revoke the conditional use permit to operate a nightclub establishment at TC Tooties Historic Sports Pub (Public Hearing closed and decision tabled on May 8, 2012 for 30 days; Tabled for 6 months on June 12, 2012.)

Mr. Iman stated on June 12, 2012, Council considered revoking a Conditional Use Permit for TC Tooties Sports Pub. The item was scheduled to be revisited during this meeting however the establishment has closed. Mr. Iman recommended Council move forward with revoking the CUP.

Vice-Mayor McInturff moved to revoke CU-11-62 for TC Tooties Sports Pub. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Anthony Williams stated he did not have a report to present.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

O-2012-35: Second Reading – AN ORDINANCE TO MODIFY SECTION 13-3 OF THE WINCHESTER CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE REGULATION OF MASSAGE PARLORS

No citizens came forward to address Council concerning this issue and the President declared the public hearing closed at 7:25 p.m.

Vice-President Willingham moved to adopt O-2012-35. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then adopted by the affirmative roll-call vote of a majority of all members of the Common Council, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:*

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-Mayor McInturff	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Tagnesi	Aye
Councilor Veach	Aye
Councilor Weber	Aye
Vice-President Willingham	Aye
President Buettner	Aye

O-2012-36: Second Reading – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT ARTICLES 1 AND 18 OF THE WINCHESTER ZONING ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE DEFINITION OF DONATION DROP-OFF BOXES AND SITING PROVISIONS RELATED THERETO

No citizens came forward to address Council concerning this issue and the President declared the public hearing closed at 7:27 p.m.

Councilor Weber moved to adopt O-2012-36. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then adopted by the affirmative roll-call vote of a majority of all members of the Common Council, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:*

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-Mayor McInturff	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Tagnesi	Aye
Councilor Veach	Aye
Councilor Weber	Aye
Vice-President Willingham	Aye
President Buettner	Aye

O-2012-37: Second Reading – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ADOPT SECTION 2-64 OF THE WINCHESTER CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE USE OF A CONSENT AGENDA

No citizens came forward to address Council concerning this issue and the President declared the public hearing closed at 7:28 p.m.

Vice-President Willingham moved to adopt O-2012-37. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Tagnesi then adopted by the affirmative roll-call vote of a majority of all members of the Common Council, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:*

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-Mayor McInturff	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Tagnesi	Aye
Councilor Veach	Aye
Councilor Weber	Aye
Vice-President Willingham	Aye
President Buettner	Aye

CU-12-554: Conditional Use Permit – Request of Paul Whitley on behalf of Shenandoah Personal Communications, LLC to upgrade existing telecommunications facilities with additional antennas at 333 West Cork Street (Map Number 192-01-C-16) zoned Health Services (HS) District

Ben Pelletier of 36 East Baltimore in Taneytown, Maryland stated he represented Shentel Communications and offered to answer any questions Council may have on the project.

No further citizens came forward to address Council concerning this issue and the President declared the public hearing closed at 7:29 p.m.

Councilor Veach moved to approve CU-12-554. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Willingham.

Councilor Veach moved to amend the CUP with the language adopted at the work session to include the removal of the equipment within 90 days after it is not in use. *The motion was seconded by Vice-President Willingham then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

The amended CUP was then unanimously approved by voice-vote.

CU-12-577: Conditional Use Permit – Request of Tom Godwin on behalf of AT&T to upgrade existing telecommunications facilities with an additional microwave dish at 799 Fairmont Avenue (*Map Number 153-01- -2*) zoned Limited Industrial (M-1) District

Tom Godwin of 6191 Plank Road in Fredericksburg, Virginia offered to answer any questions Council may have on the project.

No further citizens came forward to address Council concerning this issue and the President declared the public hearing closed at 7:30 p.m.

Vice-President Willingham moved to approve CU-12-577. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Guevremont stated he is the current chairman of the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce Board representing approximately 900 business members employing over 30,000 in this region. The Top of Virginia Regional Chamber is aware that Council has recently released a priority list for the 2013 Strategic Plan. One of the projects listed is a proposed conference center within the city limits. He stated the Chamber would like to offer some observations on this topic. The Chamber has had difficulty locating adequate meeting space and event space in Winchester for a variety of events they hold throughout the course of the year. He stated there are several other organizations that have this problem as well. This dilemma has forced the Chamber to limit attendance at certain events and other groups have decided to move certain events outside of the city limits. Being located in a regional area with an interstate highway, the Chamber sees there are numerous opportunities to host things and improve the economy. The loss revenue from retail sales tax, meals tax, fuel, hotels, restaurants, florists, and caterers goes on and on. He stated the Chamber would like to commend the City of Winchester for making this project a priority for the community. The Chamber strongly supports the concept of a conference center in Winchester and is willing to assist in any way with that effort. He stated the business community in Winchester needs projects like this that bring more people to the community to attend the events, shop in the stores,

sleep in the hotels, and eat in the restaurants. The Chamber considers this a win-win for the community.

No further citizens came forward to address Council and the President declared the public comments closed at 7:33 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

O-2012-38: First Reading – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF WINCHESTER LOCATED AT 119-129 NORTH LOUDOUN STREET, WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA (TAYLOR HOTEL)

AGENDA

R-2012-88: Resolution – Authorization for the submittal of a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

Councilor Veach moved to approve R-2012-88. *The motion was seconded by Vice-President Willingham then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Motion to approve the 2013 City of Winchester Strategic Plan

Councilor Clark moved to approve the 2013 City of Winchester Strategic Plan. *The motion was seconded by Vice-President Willingham then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Motion to direct the Clerk of Council to prepare a Certificate of Appreciation for Dave Shore for his service on the Planning Commission

Vice-President Willingham moved to approve the Certificate of Appreciation for Mr. Shore. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Motion to alter the design of the Historic Old Town Pedestrian Mall Improvement Project to pull the fire lane away from the buildings

Vice-President Willingham moved to alter the design of the Historic Old Town Pedestrian Mall Improvement Project. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark then approved 8/1 with Councilor Tagnesi voting in the negative.*

Announce the term expiration of Fran Orr as a member of the Social Services Advisory Board effective March 31, 2013 and direct the Clerk of Council to advertise the vacancy.

Announce the term expiration of Art Major as a member of the Regional Jail Board effective February 19, 2013 and direct the Clerk of Council to advertise the vacancy.

Announce the resignation of Debbie Lewis as the parent representative to the Community Policy and Management Team effective December 7, 2012 and direct the Clerk of Council to advertise the vacancy.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Veach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Vice-President Willingham then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Kari J. Van Diest, CMC
Deputy Clerk of the Common Council

2012 MAYOR'S REPORT

1/8/13

January begins another exciting year with many new goals, projects and ideas, but we also have the opportunity to reflect on what we've accomplished over the past twelve months. It hasn't always been easy, but I know that 2012 was a year we should all be proud of as we embark on a new journey together in 2013.

In April of last year, we welcomed our City Manager, Dale Iman into the City of Winchester family. Dale has been a pleasure to work with and I know his wealth of knowledge and leadership skills will continue to point us in the right direction for many years to come. We are lucky to be the community in which Dale and his wife, Jan, have chosen to call their hometown.

The City of Winchester staff and Council created a strategic plan last fall. This document will guide us for the next 12 to 18 months toward achieving Council's four goals of Growing the Economy, Developing a High-Performing City Organization, Continuing to Revitalize Downtown, and Creating a More Livable City for All. These goals will help influence our decisions for fiscal year 2014 and I have total faith that our dedicated team will make significant progress this coming year.

2012 was a big year for our Public Services division. Three major infrastructure improvement projects were completed including Amherst Street, Indian Alley and the city's north end. These important projects replaced aging and insufficient underground utilities, improved or added sidewalks, enhanced safety with new traffic patterns, crosswalks and traffic lights, and repaved numerous roads. In addition, new sidewalks were also installed along Valley, South Loudoun, Millwood, Purcell, Woodstock and Cork. The Water Treatment Plant also received numerous upgrades this year. Much of the 50-year-old original equipment was replaced, which greatly improved the plant's overall efficiency and reliability.

The City's Public Works division also had a busy year especially this summer after the derecho hit the area on June 29th. Crews spent countless hours cleaning up debris left by the storm and removing potential hazards in addition to continuing the regular refuse and recycling collection schedule. Like all City divisions, this group is very dedicated to serving the citizens and organizations of Winchester and we are grateful to have them on our team.

Speaking of recycling, last year the City saved over 39,000 dollars thanks to the public recycling program. Of the 3,300 tons of material recycled in 2012, over 1,300 tons of that was paper which is the equivalent of saving over 23,000 trees. The 20 tons of aluminum cans recycled saved 14 kilo-watt hours of electricity which is the equivalent of over 62,000 gallons of gasoline. Keep it up Winchester! Recycling is a positive and easy thing we can all do for the environment. Plus the City makes it easy by picking up your recycling curbside for free each week.

Our Winchester Transit system served over 135,000 passengers in 2012 in addition to adding automated scheduling software for the para-transit service and installing a visual and audio stop announcement system on every bus for improved ADA accessibility.

The Winchester Police Department continually strives to proactively keep everyone safe while responding to over 45,000 calls for service. In 2012, Major Kelly Rice became the PD's first female Deputy Chief, and after implementing a strenuous fitness testing program, the inaugural test declared 100 percent of the PD's sworn officers are "fit for duty". The Police Department also continues to help the youth involved in the PD's Timbrook House improve their education, overall GPA and social skills. The PD also hired a Community Relations Specialist recently to enhance public education and communication efforts. The Regional Gang Task Force also investigated and arrested a group of individuals affiliated with a local gang responsible for several crimes. I'm happy to report that since these arrests, no further incidents have occurred.

The City's Community Response Team has been hitting the pavement reducing violations and duplications. The CRT has been so effective that other jurisdictions have asked them to share their secrets of success. The CRT also held two alcohol education programs for bar owners and managers earlier this year resulting in fewer calls for police in and around local bars and restaurants.

The Winchester Fire & Rescue Department continues to serve our community with both highly-trained career and volunteer firefighters and EMTs. This year, 100 percent of the City's firefighters successfully completed the EMS skills testing and all Advanced Life Support providers on staff successfully completed the Pediatric Advanced Life Support certification. As I'm sure you will all agree, responding to emergencies and educating the public on how to prevent emergencies are equally important. Therefore, to help with both initiatives the City has been able to hire two additional career firefighters as well as an Assistant Fire Marshal this year. These additional personnel are greatly needed as the Department accepted over 5,700 calls in 2012, installed 27 smoke detectors and 129 child safety seats, saved over 2.7 million dollars of property from fire damage, and reached over 5,100 citizens through public education efforts. In addition, the Winchester Fire & Rescue Department is always looking for ways to raise funds for other helpful organizations and this year, they raised over \$21,000 for MDA during their "Fill the Boot Campaign", and over \$2,000 for Wellspring during their "Give Cancer the Boot" t-shirt program.

In 2012, the City and the Economic Development Authority was able to accomplish something that many of us only dared to dream about for many years. I'm referring to none other than the revitalization of the Taylor Hotel on the Loudoun Street Mall. As many of you are aware, demolition and stabilization efforts have begun and the final product is going to bring something very special to our downtown. I know I can't wait to witness the transformation. The Economic Development Authority also assisted in the expansion of Rubbermaid Commercial Products on Valley Avenue which created 71 new jobs and an additional 1.2 million dollars in new taxes over the next five years. In addition, the EDA is currently renovating a building on East Boscawen Street which will

become the new Downtown Welcome Center. All fantastic news for Winchester and its continued growth.

Another glowing accomplishment this past year involves teamwork, collaboration and a desire to help others succeed in life. In 2012, the Winchester Department of Social Services expanded their Family Services Prevention initiatives and launched a Fatherhood Program to help dads improve or create a lasting connection with their children. The program was a tremendous success and more proactive programs such as this one are expected for 2013! In addition, Winchester Social Services successfully found “Forever Families” for five children who were abused or neglected.

As we have begun the budget season for the next fiscal year, I must mention that the City received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial reporting for the 20th consecutive year, and the City’s Bond rating maintained its Double A Plus rating. If you aren’t familiar with the rating system, Double A Plus is the second strongest rating level possible.

Even in a slow economy, the City takes every precaution to handle all business ethically, efficiently and with the community’s best interest in mind. For more information about the City’s budget and budget adoption process, review the City’s Budget in Brief publication. This Budget document is an easy to follow citizen’s guide to the City’s finances and can be viewed on our website or in the Finance offices.

In 2012, Winchester Parks & Recreation continued its efforts to make ADA improvements to existing facilities and upgrade several athletic fields in Jim Barnett Park and at our community parks. These improvements improve mobility and opportunities for recreational play. Also, as a result of the extensive damage caused by the June 29th storm, Winchester Parks & Recreation teamed up the City’s Arborist to create the “Adopt-A-Tree, Watch it Grow” program which provides residents, businesses and organizations an opportunity to plant trees in parks and along streets in an effort to restore the City’s tree canopy.

The Park was also able to offer the community several events last year including two Civil War Balls, many holiday celebrations for children, the final International Children’s Festival, the new World Explorer Obstacle Course – which, by the way, received national recognition for being an innovative and unique opportunity that other organizations could replicate, and the ever-so-popular Outdoor Movie Series on the Mall in partnership with Old Town Winchester. These successful low-cost or free events bring so much joy to the community and I can’t wait to see what happens next!

The City’s 8th annual INSIGHT Citizen’s Academy was held last fall and officially graduated 15 local residents. This exciting program is one of those hidden gems that all Winchester residents, business owners, and non-profit employees should register for as you will explore and come to understand your City government in a way you never thought possible. Don’t miss it this year! Classes begin in early August.

The City is always looking for ways to improve communication with the public and our Public Information Office continues to offer more information about City news, programs, alerts and services on cable channel 6, Facebook, Twitter, and also through the City's electronic newsletter, City News. Just this fall, the City installed and began using its new emergency notification system, DeltAlert. If you haven't signed up yet, please do it soon, so important information, dangerous weather alerts and emergency notifications may be sent to your email, phone or mobile device. Also, in December, the City began broadcasting all Council meetings and Work Sessions live on Cable Channel 6. Don't worry if you miss the live meetings, all are replayed the following Thursday at 7:00 pm. Broadcasting these meetings is another opportunity for public to stay informed and involved.

The accomplishments I've mentioned tonight are only a fraction of what the City has achieved over the past year. I could never cover everything or the numerous awards our dedicated employees have received this year, but I will close with how proud I am to be the Mayor of this special City. I am excited about the next four year of my term and I can't wait to get started on another fabulous year as we tackle our new strategic plan. Thank you and Happy New Year!